

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 COME-00 IO-11 /026 W

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R 290157Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6444

UNCLAS TOKYO 1297

ATTN: OES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, EWWT, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE OCEAN DATA BUOY LOST IN NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

1. SCIENCE OFFICER INFORMED BY MOFA (TANAKA) ON JANUARY 28 THAT GOJ OCEAN DATA BUOY NO. 5 HAS BEEN LOST IN NORTH PACIFIC. BUOY LAST SIGHTED IN LATE DECEMBER. BUOY ORIGINALLY ANCHORED APPROXIMATELY 500 KILOMETERS OFF IBARAKI PREFECTURE AT 37 DEGREES NORTH/147 DEGREES EAST. BUOY CONSTRUCTED OF METAL AND WEIGHS APPROXIMATELY 43 TONS. IT IS IDENTIFIED AS GOJ PROPERTY BY SIGN IN ENGLISH AND JAPANESE. MOFA EXPRESSED OPINION THAT CABLE HOLDING BUOY IN PLACE WAS CUT BUT HAD NO DETAILS ON SOURCE OF DAMAGE.

2. BUOY EQUIPPED WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSMITTER FOR SENDING METEOROLOGICAL DATA. TRANSMITTER BATTERIES DESIGNED TO LAST UNTIL JULY 1976. HOWEVER, NO SIGNALS HAVE BEEN PICKED UP SINCE BUOY REPORTED MISSING. BUOY IS DISCUS TYPE (10 METERS IN DIAMETER, 8 METERS IN HEIGHT) SIMILAR TO THOSE USED BY BOTH US AND CANADA. MOFA STATED THIS TYPE BUOY "PRACTICALLY INCAPABLE OF SINKING." BUOY HAS NO EXPLOSIVES OR FUEL WITHIN METAL STRUCTURE.

3. WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO) NOTIFIED IN AUGUST 1975 THAT BUOY BEING PUT IN PLACE. WMO ALSO NOTIFIED BY JAPAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY OF LOSS OF BUOY. MOFA INFORMING WASHINGTON AND OTHER EMBASSIES

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TO COVEY ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE

AUTHORITIES IN HOST COUNTRIES.

4. MOFA STRESSED THAT GOJ MOST ANXIOUS TO RETRIEVE
BUOY. COST OF BUOY APROXIMATELY US DOLLARS 333 THOUSAND.
HODGSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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